REMARKS

In response to the Examiner's first Office Action of November 15, 2005 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Terminal Disclaimer with respect to USSN 10/760,217, Amendment to the specification, drawings and claims, and the below Remarks directed thereto.

Regarding Amendment

The amendment to the co-pending table is merely to update Docket Numbers to US Serial Numbers.

In the Amendment:

page 13, line 8, page 14, line 26, page 17, lines 14-15, page 18, line 3 and page 22, line 7 of the present specification are amended to omit reference to Fig. 17C;

Fig. 43 is amended to include the reference sign "500", as is described at page 8, lines 13-21 of the present specification;

independent claim 1 is amended to clarify replace the recitation "clamping arrangement" with --clamp mounted to the casing--. Support for this amendment can be found at page 13, lines 13-35 of the present specification;

dependent claims 2 and 4 are amended to conform with amended claim 1;

dependent claim 3 is amended to replace the recitation "the lower longitudinally extending protrusion" with --the lower longitudinally extending tab--; and

dependent claim 5 is amended to clarify that at least two fluid distribution members are provided, each for one of the printhead integrated circuits. Support for this amendment can be found at page 6, lines 19-39 and page 7, line 29-page 8, line 21 of the present specification.

It is respectfully submitted that the above amendments do not add new matter to the present application.

Regarding Drawing Objections

Regarding Fig. 17C

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendments to omit reference to Fig. 17C in the present specification, provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding reference sign "500"

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to Fig. 43 to insert the reference sign "500", provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding Claim Objections

Regarding "clamping arrangement"

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to claim 5 to replace the recitation "clamping arrangement" with --clamp mounted to the casing--, thereby clearly reciting the support 91 and its arm portions 94 described at page 13, lines 13-35 of the present specification, provides the correction required by the Examiner.

Regarding "fluid distribution member"

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to claim 5 to clarify that at least two fluid distribution members are provided, each for one of the printhead integrated circuits, provides the correction required by the Examiner, as this clarifies that the claimed fluid distribution members refer to the disclosed fluid distribution stacks 500 (see page 6, lines 19-39 and page 7, line 29-page 8, line 21 of the present specification).

Regarding "the longitudinally extending protrusion"

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to claim 3 to replace the recitation "the lower longitudinally extending protrusion" with --the lower longitudinally extending tab--, provides sufficient antecedent basis for the amended limitation in the claim.

Regarding "the fluid distribution members"

It is respectfully submitted that the above-described amendment to claim 5 to clarify that at least two fluid distribution members are provided at line 3 of claim 5, provides sufficient antecedent basis for this term later in the claim.

Regarding Provisional Double Patenting Rejections

With respect to the provisional non-statutory double patenting rejection of pending claims 1-5 over claims 2-5 of copending Application No. 10/760,217, a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c) is being submitted herewith; the present application and Application No. 10/760,217 being commonly owned by the Applicant.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-5 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed by Silverbrook et al. (US 6,439,908), for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, each printhead module 30 has two or more printhead tiles/integrated circuits 50,51 arranged on an elongate fluid channel member 40. At least two of these printhead modules are longitudinally assembled within a casing 20 to form a printhead. Multiple printhead modules, each having multiple printhead tiles, are used in the printhead assembly so that replacement of the modules and selection of printhead length are easily provided without the need to provide individual controllers and connections for each printhead integrated circuit.

Thermal expansion and contraction of the casing relative to the printhead modules is provided by clamping the printhead modules to the casing using the arm portions 94 of the supports 91. In particular, the clamping arrangement of the supports allow movement of the printhead modules along the longitudinal direction of the casing (see page 6, lines 19-39 and page 13, lines 13-page 14, line 21 of the present specification). Amended independent claim 1 recites these features of the present invention.

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On the other hand, Silverbrook discloses an arrangement in which each printhead module 12 has a single microelectromechanical chip 18 and support molding 26,28. Each module is plugged into a reservoir molding 32 housing an ink reservoir 16, which is secured to a chassis 14. Each module may be removed from the reservoir molding, however scalability of the printhead assembly 10 is not provided, as the reservoir molding is a set length.

Further, the reservoir molding is heat staked to the chassis, not clamped by the return edge 94 as contended by the Examiner. Thus, the reservoir molding is not able to move relative to the chassis. The only "clamping" arrangement disclosed by Silverbrook, is the clips 44 of the modules which clip the modules to the reservoir molding. However, as discussed above, each module does not comprise more than one printhead chip and the clips locate within receiving formations 92 of the reservoir molding, which clearly constrain the movement of the modules relative to the reservoir molding and therefore the chassis.

Moreover, such movement is undesired in Silverbrook since the filling funnels 38 and associated collars 40 of the modules must remain sealingly engaged with the nozzles 42 of the reservoir molding (see col. 2, lines 6-53, col. 5, lines 3-38 and Fig. 3 of Silverbrook).

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-5 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed, or suggested, by Silverbrook.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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Amendments to the Drawings

A corrected Fig. 43 is enclosed.